



**Town of Arlington, Massachusetts**  
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## **Selectmen Minutes 10-29-2001**

Meeting Minutes  
 Monday, October 29, 2001, 7:15 p.m.

Present: Mr. Lyons, Chairman, Mrs. Mahon, Mrs. Dias, Mr. Hurd  
 Also Present: Mr. Farrington, Mr. Maher, Mrs. Krepelka

**1. Minutes of Meeting:** September 10, 2001; October 1, 2001  
 Mrs. Mahon moved approval. SO VOTED

**2. Proclamation: Lori Uhland**

Mrs. Uhland was given Proclamation by Mr. Lyons.

Mrs. Uhland thanked Bob Sprague, Joe Tully, Diane Mahon, Dana Farber Hospital and many other Arlington residents for the success of the bone marrow drive. Without their help and the help of the community, Mrs. Uhland felt the bone marrow drive would not have gotten off the ground.

**APPOINTMENTS & REAPPOINTMENTS**

**3. Appointment: Parks and Recreation Commission**

Leslie Mayer (term to expire 10/04)

Mrs. Mahon moved approval.

SO VOTED

(4-0)

**4. Utility Consultants, Inc. Petition for NStar Communications, Inc.**

Permission to lay and maintain (+/-)328 feet of 1-4" conduit and one 3' x 3' x 3' manhole under Pleasant Street, at the intersection of Massachusetts Avenue and (+/-) 41 feet of 1-4" conduit and one 3' x 3' x 3' manhole under Massachusetts Avenue / Water Street as shown on the plan provided. The facilities are needed to connect the NStar Communications aerial system to the Verizon conduit system for the purpose of placing a fiber optic cable into the Verizon facility at 67 Pleasant Street. (all abutters notified.) (approved by the Engineering Dept. & Inspector of Wires)  
 Mr. Hurd moved approval.

SO VOTED

(4-0)

Mrs. Mahon asked how much longer residents would have to tolerate the strong odor of gas at Mass Ave. and Library Way. With winter months approaching she would appreciate anything that can be done to have the problem solved. She feels pedestrians and the entire Town has tolerated the problem long enough.

Mr. Hurd would like a report from NStar as soon as possible on the outages throughout Town. He feels this should be a high priority for NStar and that Arlington residents have waited a long time for solution.

Mrs. Dias asked Town Counsel to send a letter to AT&T Broadband asking for individual customers to be compensated or to be reimbursed for one week's disruption.

**5. Petition of Keyspan Energy Delivery or Gas Main Locations**

Permission to install and maintain approximately 220 feet, more or less of 4 inch gas main in Henry Street, Arlington from the existing 4 inch gas main in Henry Street @ house # 22 North to the Arlington / Winchester Town Line (all Abutters notified) (approved by the Engineering Dept. & Inspector of Wires)

The Board asked Keyspan for a report regarding neighbors concerns. Mrs. Routenberg, 32 Henry Street, stated she

did not want the gas main put in front of her home and most of her neighbors felt the same way. They could not understand why Keyspan had to come from Henry Street, Arlington to install a gas line to service homes in Winchester.

Mrs. Routenberg and her neighbors are very concerned about what the street will be like after the gas line is put in. With winter approaching, they did not want the street dug up.

Mr. Hurd asked that Keyspan report back to the Board with information as to how many feet from 22 Henry Street to the Town Line and what is the footage from Winchester to the location of the "new" gas line.

Mr. Lyons asked if Keyspan would consider resurfacing the street for the good of the residents.

Mr. Lyons moved to postpone the matter until meeting on November 5, 2001.

SO VOTED

(4-0)

### **LICENSES & PERMITS**

#### **6. Request for One-Day All Alcoholic License**

Carla Dorato, Stratton School PTO & Peirce School PTO, 11/2/01.

Mr. Hurd moved approval.

SO VOTED

#### **7. Request for use of Publicity Board, 1/02-1/14 Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Observance**

Janice Bakey, Chair, Birthday Observance Committee

Mrs. Dias moved approval.

SO VOTED

Mrs. Mahon congratulated Mrs. Bakey for a wonderful event.

#### **8. Request to Hang Banner on Town Hall**

10/30, Henry Louis Gates, Jr.,

Chair, African American studies department at Harvard University.

Sheri A. Baron, Chair, Arlington Human Rights Commission.

Mrs. Baron asked to withdraw her request because she cannot get banner made in time to hang on Town Hall.

Mr. Lyons stated the Arlington Human Rights Commission has done a wonderful job.

#### **9. Request for One Day All Alcohol License**

S. Catherine Clifford, Arlington Catholic Gym

Mr. Hurd moved approval.

SO VOTED

#### **10. Food Vendor / Awning License**

Faruk Abdulla d/b/a Broadway Market, 94 96 Broadway

Mrs. Dias asked about the word cigarettes on the awning. It is her feeling that the word cigarettes should be eliminated.

Mrs. Mahon stated that the word "cigarettes and coffee were spelled wrong" and suggested a new sample sign with correct spelling etc. be submitted.

Mr. Maher suggested Mr. Abdulla speak to him at his office regarding posting of bond, awning permit and completing application for food vendor.

Mr. Abdulla agreed to meet with Mr. Maher and will come back to the Board on November 5, 2001.

Mr. Hurd moved approval of Mr. Maher's request. Said approval was seconded by Mrs. Mahon.

SO VOTED

#### **11. Food Vendor / Awning License**

Galaxy Market Inc., Anver Shaikh, Pres., 1348 1354 Mass. Ave.

Mr. Hurd moved that Anver Shaikh, Pres., Galaxy Market, meet with Town Counsel, John Maher, regarding posting of bond, awning permit and also completing application. Mr. Shaikh agreed to said meeting and will appear before the Board on November 5, 2001.

Mrs. Mahon seconded Mr. Hurd's motion.

SO VOTED

#### **12. Common Victualler License**

Anya Kagansky & Levon Ovassapian d/b/a/ Friends Market, 795 Mass Ave

Mr. Hurd moved approval.

SO VOTED

Mr. Lyons welcomed Friends Market as new business owners and wished them success.

**13. Public Entertainment License**

Gary Adelson d/b/a/ Regent Theatre, 7 Medford St.

Mr. Hurd moved approval.

SO VOTED

**14. Public Entertainment License**

Arlington Friends of the Drama, 5 Productions, 2001 2002 Season

Mrs. Dias moved approval.

SO VOTED

**15. Request for Drain Layer / Contractor License**

White Builders Supply, 16 Skyview Lane, Woburn

Mrs. Mahon moved approval.

SO VOTED

**Citizens' Open Forum**

No matter was presented.

**Traffic Rules and Orders / Other Business****16. Safety Issue Concerns: Cutter Hill & Richfield Roads**

Gregg Malatesta

Mr. Malatesta spoke to the Board asking for their help to improve traffic conditions on Cutter Hill and Richfield Roads. He feels it is a dangerous situation and is very concerned for the children in the neighborhood. He would like the speed limit to be reduced to 25 m.p.h., increased enforcement by Police Dept., add crosswalks at intersection of Ridge St. and Richfield Roads; post "Caution Children" signs on Cutter Hill at intersection of Ridge St. and past the ledge outcropping; post a stop sign at Montrose Avenue and add a four way stop sign at Cutter Hill and Richfield Roads.

Mr. Malatesta stated he met with Lt. McHugh, Arlington Police Department, during a meeting with neighbors at his home and agrees with the recommendations of the Police Department. Mr. Malatesta feels the measures should be implemented immediately.

Mr. Hurd told Mr. Malatesta his report was great, but felt he should have the input of the Traffic Advisory Committee. Mr. Hurd stated he supports the changes because it will have no effect on other neighborhoods.

Mrs. Dias stated she would support recommendations of the Police Dept and would like to see recommendations put into effect as soon as possible.

Mrs. Mahon stated she agrees with recommendations of Police Dept. and is concerned for the safety of all children and the neighbors. She feels the Traffic Advisory Committees role is not defined and suggests that the Traffic Advisory Committee meet with the Police Dept. and report back as soon as possible with recommendations.

If the Traffic Advisory Committee gives a favorable report at the Selectmen's meeting on November 19, 2001, the Police Dept. will conduct a follow-up traffic study in six months.

Mr. Hurd moved approval to refer to the Traffic Advisory Committee and will have the committee report back to Board. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Mahon.

SO VOTED

**17. Request for Stop Sign Thesda and Wright Street**

Bernadette McGonagle

Mrs. McGonagle spoke to the Board regarding the installation of a stop sign at the intersection of Thesda and Wright St. and the addition of a "Wright Street" sign at the same intersection. She feels it is extremely dangerous and she is concerned for the safety of children.

The Police Department is, also, recommending "Caution Children" signs be placed on Wright Street in the area of Thesda Street.

The Board recommended a stop sign be put at 93 Wright St., and a "Caution Children" signs to be installed on Wright St. in the area of Thesda St.

Mrs. Mahon moved approval and asked that the Traffic Advisory Committee be notified as to the steps the Board approved.  
SO VOTED

18. For Approval: Health Insurance Rates

Mrs. Dias thanked Mr. Farrington for all his work done in connection with the employee health insurance plans. Mr. Hurd stated that he, also, appreciated all the work that was done to reach an agreement on Health Insurance Rates.

Mrs. Dias moved approval. Mrs. Mahon seconded said approval.

SO VOTED

19. For Discussion: Jason St. Concerns

Frank Tessitore

Robert McKersie

Highland Avenue / Jason Street

Frank Tessitore, 222 Highland Avenue, spoke before the Board and stated that he hopes traffic improvements don't become a race to see which group gets to the Selectmen first or which group has the largest petition. He hoped that his request would be heard on its merits and let the Traffic Advisory Committee or the Board of Selectmen make a decision. He felt that diverting traffic away from Jason St. would "make a bad problem worse" and could not see why Highland Avenue residents should be subjected to any increase in traffic.

Mr. Robert McKersie, 197 Jason Street spoke for the Jason Street residents in attendance. He and his neighbors felt that just traffic calming would not help the long-range solution to keep traffic off those streets.

Mr. Lyons stated that traffic calming is needed in addition to finding ways to keep traffic on Park Ave., Pleasant St. and Alewife Brook Parkway.

Mr. Lyons stated that the Town is looking into closing Spring St. from the Route 2 access road, which would help Jason Heights.

Mrs. Dias stated that she felt totally frustrated at this moment because we have ongoing problems where people feel unsafe. Mrs. Dias stated traffic relief is needed immediately and she is willing to implement anything that will help.

Mrs. Mahon feels that Jason Heights residents have suffered through years of frustration with nothing being done to solve their safety concerns. She feels the Police Department needs to become much more aggressive especially in the morning hours.

Edward Starr, Chairman, Transportation Advisory Committee, stated Town officials need to look at the community as a whole and not implement changes in one neighborhood that would harm another. The committee believes that transportation issues need to be addressed in a cooperative and constructive manner.

Mr. Starr recommended a three-prong approach to improve the quality of life in Arlington.

1. Develop a long-range transportation plan that provides a framework for making transportation decisions.
2. Apply pressure to the State to improve traffic flows of Route 2, 3, 16 and 60 and work with neighboring communities to restrain developments.
3. Make local improvements, based on a set of criteria, including safety, mobility, equity, environmental impact, and probability of success.

On short term issues, Mr. Starr said the Transportation Advisory Committee should prioritize the issues; give public safety the highest priority; investigate various traffic calming options; predict where traffic will go if the calming techniques are applied and consider the impact; make recommendations to the Selectmen for action including the rationale for the recommendations; implement the Selectmen's decision for a six to twelve month trial period; take objective measurements at the end of the trial period; and evaluate the net effect and decide to stop, modify or make the changes permanent and then make recommendations to the Selectmen.

Mr. Lyons said he would like the advisory committee to respond quickly to public safety issues. Mr. Lyons wants the committee to provide recommendations on how to improve public safety when issues are brought before the Selectmen and forwarded to the advisory committee within two weeks.

Mr. Lyons stated that he would like the advisory committee to implement pilot studies over a 3-6 month period. Mr. Lyons stated the advisory committee is there to provide recommendations but does not have a final say. The Selectmen are responsible for traffic decisions.

Mr. Starr stated the Police Department was asking for more traffic counting equipment, which the Town Manager estimated at \$20,000 and a speed monitor in next year's capital budget. The Town at present has only one speed monitor.

Mrs. Mahon stated that she is working on legislation with State Senator Robert Havern, Representative Anne Paulsen and Representative Alice Wolf to begin a traffic study of the Route 2 corridor.

Mrs. Mahon also stated that she wants to see increased enforcement in selected areas that are having safety concerns. She feels we need more directed enforcement immediately.

Mr. Starr will report back with the Traffic Advisory Committee recommendations at later date.

Mr. Hurd moved approval. SO VOTED

20. Request for Payment of Bills

Cyrus Dallin Art Museum

Mrs. Dias moved approval. SO VOTED

21. Report: Parking Sub-Committee / Municipal Lot

Medford Street

Mrs. Mahon voted no action to use seven (7) spaces in front of Mt. Pleasant Cemetery. Other Board members concurred with Mrs. Mahon.

SO VOTED

Pleasant St.

Mrs. Dias stated that she would like to have an informal meeting with residents on Pleasant St. and surrounding streets to discuss all day parking from Maple Street to Irving Street. Said meeting would include Lt. McHugh so that he may answer any concerns the residents may have. Mrs. Dias will report back to the Board after said meeting takes place.

Paul Schlichtman, 60 Pleasant St., spoke before the Board and said he supports Mrs. Dias' request to notify residents before a final decision is made on all day parking. He stated maybe a creative approach should be used on Pleasant St.

Mr. Hurd moved approval. SO VOTED

Pond Lane

Mr. Lyons asked the Town Manager to have Public Works install signs for all day municipal sticker parking. This lot will accommodate 23 cars. Once each spot is designated by a pole with a number, the Police Department will begin enforcement. When the culvert is fixed in the Spring, the Board of Selectmen will ask Public Works to pave said lot.

Mr. Hurd moved approval. SO VOTED

Correspondence Received

Raymond Lintz Letter of appreciation  
87 Harlow St.

Gereth McDonnell Stalker concerns  
1277 Mass. Ave.

George "Buzz" Mulvey Letter of appreciation  
K of C

Reps. Paulsen & Marzilli Arlington Notices

Linda K. Olsen Resignation from Board of Trustees,  
89 Wright Dallin Art Museum

John F. Maher Belmont Project  
Town Counsel

Mr. Lyons moved receipt of correspondence. SO VOTED

Mr. Lyons moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:40 p.m. SO VOTED

A true record.

Attest:

Marie Krepelka  
Board Administrator